

### **Amendments to the Specification**

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.173(d), material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is underlined, and the material to be deleted is in [brackets].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at column 2, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Nail posts are formed integral with the side walls of the retainer and serve to hold removable means for removably attaching the floor joist retainer body to the forms before the concrete is poured into the forms. Preferably, the removable means takes the forms of nails, so that the nail posts hold the nails in a position where they can be hammered straight into the inside surface of an interior foundation wall form. Nails are sized such that when they are hammered, the pointed ends will extend approximately one-half inch straight into a wooden concrete form.

Please insert the following new paragraph on column 4, after line 17.

Another way of describing use of floor joist retainers 10 is as a method of positioning and supporting a floor joist within a concrete foundation formed by pouring concrete into forms using a floor joist retainer. That floor joist retainer has a floor joist retainer body having an open front, closed sides, a bottom, and a removable top, and is configured to receive and support an end of the floor joist positioned within the floor joist retainer body through the top and front. The floor joist retainer further includes an intermediate structural plate interconnecting the sides and back of the floor joist retainer body, the intermediate structural plate being attached to the sides and back when the concrete is poured into the forms and removable after the concrete is poured, the floor joist retainer further including a retaining flange attached to the floor joist retainer body

for engagement within the concrete foundation, and means for removably attaching the floor joist retainer body to the forms before the concrete is poured into the forms. This method includes the following steps: (1) positioning and attaching the floor joist retainer to a form with the removable top attached to the floor joist retainer body before the concrete is poured with the open front facing the form; (2) pouring the concrete into the forms; (3) curing the concrete; (4) removing the forms; (5) removing the intermediate structural plate from the floor joist retainer body; (6) removing the removable top from the floor joist retainer body; and (7) positioning the end of the floor joist into the floor joist retainer body.